

Before the New Hampshire
Office of Licensed Allied Health Professionals
Speech-Language Pathology Governing Board
Concord, New Hampshire 03301

In the Matter of:

Mary-Ann Melizzi-Golja
(Application for License)

Docket No. 07-02

ORDER OF CONDITIONAL DENIAL

Now before the New Hampshire Governing Board of Speech and Language Pathologists ("Board") is the July 2, 2007 Application for License of Mary-Ann Melizzi-Golja, SLS ("the applicant" or "Ms. Melizzi-Golja").

At the October 4, 2007 regularly scheduled Board meeting, the Board voted to conditionally deny Ms. Melizzi-Golja's application to practice Speech and Language Pathology in New Hampshire. The grounds for the conditional denial are based upon a determination, under RSA 326-F:3, I(a), that Ms. Melizzi-Golja has not demonstrated "sufficient evidence of good professional character and reliability to satisfy the Board that the applicant shall faithfully and conscientiously avoid professional misconduct and adhere to this chapter, RSA 328-F and the Board's rules." Additional grounds are based upon a determination that pursuant to RSA 328-F:23, II(i), that Ms. Melizzi-Golja has allegedly committed certain acts that would constitute grounds for discipline. ("Misconduct sufficient to support disciplinary proceedings shall include: practice without a currently valid license.").

It is alleged that Ms. Melizzi-Golja began engaging in the unauthorized practice of an allied health profession on or about September 2006 through June 2007, contrary to RSA 328-F:27, and engaging in the unauthorized practice of Speech and Language Pathology, contrary to RSA 326-F:8, II. This was documented in a letter written by Ms. Melizzi-Golja dated August 27, 2007 and in a letter written by Richard Pike, Superintendent of SAU 41 dated September 25, 2007.

It is also alleged that Ms. Melizzi-Golja engaged in the unauthorized practice of an allied health profession throughout the 2006-2007 school year at the Richard Mahakian Memorial School in Brookline, N.H. and Captain Samuel Douglas Academy in Brookline, N.H., without

obtaining an exemption according to 326-F:2, I. It is alleged that Ms. Melizzi-Golja did not obtain certification as a Speech Language Specialist through the New Hampshire Department of Education until August 27, 2007.

It is also alleged that Ms. Melizzi-Golja had full knowledge of the licensure requirement in the state of New Hampshire before she began her employment as a Speech and Language Pathologist as documented in her letter dated August 27, 2007. It is alleged that Ms. Melizzi-Golja had already gone through the licensure and licensure renewal process in the state of Maryland and was familiar with licensure.

The conduct described above, if found to be true by the Governing Board of Speech and Language Pathologists, constitutes grounds for discipline pursuant to RSA 328-F:23, II and RSA 328-F:5. In accordance with RSA 328-F:27, III, and/or RSA 326-F:8, III, this is a misdemeanor level offense.

Therefore, the present license application of Mary Ann Melizzi-Golja shall be denied at the next regularly scheduled Governing Board meeting of Speech and Language Pathologists following sixty (60) days after the date of this order (specifically the Board's March 6, 2008 meeting) unless she meets the conditions set forth below or unless prior to 3:30 p.m. on February 7, 2008 (30 days from the date of this order) the Board actually receives at the Office of Licensed Allied Health Professionals a written request for a hearing from the applicant. If a timely hearing request is received, the application shall not be denied unless, following the resulting hearing, the applicant fails to demonstrate that she is qualified for licensure. The burden of proof shall be on the applicant to demonstrate that she meets the professional character and competency requirements for licensure; and

Therefore, the applicant must abide by the following conditions for the Board to consider the removal of the conditional denial and review the application:

1. The applicant will send a certified check in the amount of three hundred dollars (\$300) payable to "Treasurer, State of New Hampshire" to the Office of Licensed Allied Health Professionals. This check shall not be credited toward the processing of this application or any renewal applications;

2. The applicant will read the laws governing the Board of Speech and Language Pathologists, RSA 326-F; the laws governing the Allied Health Professional, RSA 328-F; and their respective rules. The applicant will, before a notary public, certify that she has read the above statutes, and rules, and that she will abide by them; and the applicant will return the attached notarized certification to the Office of Licensed Allied Health Professionals; and
3. The applicant will provide a copy of this Order of Conditional Denial to her Director of Special Education, Superintendent of Schools and Human Resources Director. They must state in writing on a copy of the Order of Conditional Denial that he/she has read it. It is the Applicant's responsibility to return the signed copy of this Order to the Office of Licensed Allied Health Professionals; and

Therefore, if the applicant meets the above conditions and provides the Office of Licensed Allied Health Professionals with the documents set forth above on or before 3:30 p.m. on Wednesday, February 6, 2007, the Board will review the completed application at its next regularly scheduled board meeting (specifically February 7, 2008).

Therefore, if the applicant does not meet the above conditions and/or does not provide the Office of Licensed Allied Health Professionals with the documents set forth above on or before sixty (60) days from the effective date of this Order of Conditional Denial, the Board will deny Ms. Melizzi-Golja's application for licensure; and

THEREFORE IT IS ORDERED, that the license application of Mary Ann Melizzi-Golja, SLS be denied effective 12:01 a.m., March 7, 2008 unless prior to 3:30 p.m. on February 7, 2008, the Board receives a written request for a hearing; and

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED, that receipt of a timely filed hearing request shall automatically void this Order and a further Order shall be issued in due course in which the Board establishes a date and time of the hearing, and specifies the issues to be heard; and

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED, any hearing held in response to this Order shall be conducted pursuant to RSA 328-F:23, RSA 326-F, and RSA 541-A. The applicant may request to be heard on any relevant matter of law or fact, but evidentiary proceedings shall be conducted only to the extent the applicant has identified disputed factual issues which require resolution.

BY ORDER OF THE BOARD

January 3, 2008

Dianne Boutwell Roosen
Dianne Boutwell Roosen, M.S., CCC-SLP
Governing Board of
Speech and Language Pathologists, Chair

I have read the "Order of Conditional Denial" referenced in 88-1-A.

(RICHARD M. PIKE)

Richard M. Pike
Superintendent

2/4/08